

1947.

ANNUAL REPORT  
ON THE HEALTH  
OF THE  
COWES URBAN DISTRICT

BY  
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ISLE OF WIGHT:

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1948.

COUNTY HALL,

NEWPORT, I.W.

September, 1948.

*To the Members of the Cowes Urban District Council :—*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1947.

The birth rate (20·3 per 1000) and the death rate (13·6 per 1000) were the same as for 1946, but the infantile mortality rate has increased by 30·9 per 1000, a comment on which is contained later.

The number of notifications of infectious disease has increased from 71 to 84, largely due to an outbreak of Infantile Paralysis and Whooping Cough. Measles was reduced from 51 to 38. There was 1 case of Diphtheria.

Houses continue to be a desperate need, much ill-health and unhappiness being due to some of the dark, damp, overcrowded dwellings in the district.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN MILLS,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS, 1947.

Medical Officer of Health:—

JOHN MILLS, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P.  
(Lond.), D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:—

J. W. BROMLEY, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

### GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area in acres ... ..	5542
No. of inhabited houses (end of 1947) per rate books	4928
Rateable value ... ..	£117,172
Sum represented by a penny rate ... ..	£425

### SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

These are unchanged since the last report.

### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Population (Registrar General's Figures) ... ..	15,720
Live birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population ... ..	20'3
Still birth rate per 1000 total (live and still) births ...	9'3
Death rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population ... ..	13'6
Puerperal death rate per 1000 total (live and still) births ... ..	Nil

Infantile Mortality:—

All infants per 1000 live births ... ..	53'3
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate births ...	52'8
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate births ...	71'4
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ..	32
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ..	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	Nil

### BIRTHS.

The total number of live births was 319, giving a live birth rate per 1000 living of 20'3. The corresponding rate for England and Wales being 20'5.

## DEATHS.

The number of deaths was 214 giving a death rate of 13'6 per 1000 of the estimated resident population. The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 12'0.

## INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The Infantile Mortality rate was 53'3 per 1000 registered live births, the rate for England and Wales being 41'0.

The Infantile Mortality rate is considered a fairly accurate index of the environmental conditions into which children are born and in which they pass the first year of their existence and any fall or rise in this rate is closely related to the standard of life of the community, especially in respect of housing and diet. The most prominent causes of infantile mortality are Prematurity, Congenital Defects, Gastro-Enteritis and Respiratory Diseases. The last two conditions are largely preventable.

Some of the social factors influencing unfavourably the infantile mortality rate are poverty, bad housing and overcrowding, alcoholism, parental ignorance and illegitimacy.

Education in elementary hygiene must be pressed on. Many of the local houses are dark, damp, and overcrowded, producing a great deal of unhappiness and ill-health.

Mothers must be urged still more to attend the clinics provided for their use, and to make use of the dietary additions such as orange juice and cod liver oil which are so easily obtainable, but which are so frequently ignored.

## DIPHTHERIA.

Far too many parents are failing to have their babies immunized against this most deadly and crippling disease. Propaganda is being especially guided in this direction and it is hoped that parents in the district will become more conscious of their obligations and the dreadful risks to which

they expose their children when they neglect one of the few measures in our hands to avoid death in the young.

Only 32·9 per cent. of children under five are protected and though 68·6 per cent. of children of school have been immunised, this figure is still too low.

### INFANTILE PARALYSIS.

During this year Infantile Paralysis involved the British Isles to an extent hitherto unknown. The incidence of the disease was four and a half times greater than it had ever been before. The Isle of Wight did not escape this outbreak and forty-six confirmed cases were treated in the Isolation Hospital. Out of this number seven occurred in the Urban District of Cowes. Two of them were of the most severe type, leading to death in one of the cases after a number of days in the iron lung. The other severe case improved considerably after a long period in the iron lung and was transferred to an orthopædic hospital on the mainland for further treatment.

### WATER SUPPLY.

In West Cowes water is supplied from a deep well and from land drained water passing into large open reservoirs. It also has a supply from Newport.

Bacteriological examination of the water in the open reservoirs showed varying degrees of pollution with *Coli-Aerogenes* organisms of both surface soil and fæcal type. After filtration through pressure sand filters followed by chlorination, no evidence of harmful pollution was found.

The raw water from the Broadfields Pumping Station on two occasions showed slight pollution with *Coli-Aerogenes* bacteria of the surface soil type, but tests after chlorination showed no evidence of harmful pollution.

Examinations made of the West Cowes main supply and chlorinated water from the filter house, were satisfactory.

The water supply to East Cowes is from both a deep well and from the Newport supply. Quarterly examination of the raw and treated water revealed no evidence of harmful pollution.

The number of samples examined was 21.

5300 dwelling houses, with an estimated population of 15,420, are supplied with water from the water mains, and 50 dwelling houses with approximately 300 population are supplied by means of stand-pipes.

#### ICE CREAM.

Close supervision of manufacturers and retailers of ice cream was maintained and the products controlled by frequent analyses. Any samples of ice cream which failed the test were closely investigated and the cause found and remedied.

#### SWIMMING POOLS.

Swimming Pool water was subjected to regular analysis and was found to be satisfactory.

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There were no new works of sewerage or sewage disposal during the year.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Particulars of the administration of the Factories Act, 1937,  
Parts I and VIII administered by the Council.

### PART I OF THE ACT.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health  
(including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	48	19	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	25	14	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is en- forced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	19	7	—	—
Total ...	92	40	—	—

## 2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they are reckoned as two, three or more "cases.")

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient... ..	4	4	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ... ..	—	—	—	2	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	7	7	—	2	—

### PART VIII OF THE ACT.

#### OUTWORK. (Sections 110 and 111.)

Nature of Work		Section 110			Section 111	
		No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served
Wearing apparel	Making, etc.	2	—	—	—	—
	Cleaning and washing	—	—	—	—	—
Other classes of work		—	—	—	—	—
Total ...		2	—	—	—	—

## HOUSING.

Two-hundred and ninety-six houses were inspected under the Public Health and Housing Acts and as a result 155 houses were found not reasonably fit for human habitation.

Two hundred and ten defective dwelling houses were rendered fit as the result of informal action.

Three Statutory Housing notices under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, were served and the notices complied with.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

All animals are now slaughtered at Government controlled Slaughter Houses in Newport or Wroxall.

When carcasses and offal arrive at Allocation Centre, weekly inspection is again carried out before being passed on to local butchers.

### UN SOUND FOOD.

The following table shows the amount of unsound food dealt with during the year : —

					lbs.
Beef Trimmings	...	...	...	...	302
Hind Quarter of Beef	...	...	...	...	57
Topside Beef	...	...	...	...	57
Mutton	...	...	...	...	64
Kidney Suet	...	...	...	...	31
Sausages	...	...	...	...	78
Sausage Meat	...	...	...	...	12
Luncheon Meat	...	...	...	...	28
Gelatine Roll	...	...	...	...	9
Bacon	...	...	...	...	158
Cheese	...	...	...	...	38
Butter	...	...	...	...	14
Semolina	...	...	...	...	187
Corn Flour	...	...	...	...	25

					lbs.
Coarse Barley	...	...	...	...	9
1838 Eggs	...	...	...	...	—
Dates	...	...	...	...	22
Toffee	...	...	...	...	56
Chocolate Cream	...	...	...	...	32
Flour	...	...	...	...	27
Tea	...	...	...	...	6
Fresh Fish...	...	...	...	...	591
Smoked Fish	...	...	...	...	322
Kippers	...	...	...	...	478
Shrimps	...	...	...	...	8
Corned Beef	...	...	...	...	1296
Total					3907

In addition, 1108 tins containing fish, fruit, vegetables, etc., weighing 1172 lbs. were found to be unsound and unfit for human consumption.

All the above were used for the manufacture of artificial manure for the Ministry of Food.

### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There were 84 notifications of infectious diseases, 5 being of Scarlet Fever and of 38 Measles. There was one case of Diphtheria. Immunisation against this disease commenced in 1939 and although only 32'9 per cent. of the children under five are immunised the percentage among children of school age is 68'6.

Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases among school children.

Mumps	...	...	...	2
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	33
Ringworm	...	...	...	—
Scabies	...	...	...	2

German Measles	...	...	9
Impetigo	...	...	1
Influenza and Influenzal Colds			3
Jaundice	...	...	—
			<hr/> 50 <hr/>

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Dysentery ...	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever...	—	—	—
Smallpox ...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	5	3	—
Diphtheria ...	1	1	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	3	—	—
Erysipelas ...	1	—	—
Encephalitis			—
Lethargica ...	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ...	7	7	1
Ophthalmia			
Neonatorum ...	—	—	—
Measles ...	38	4	—
Whooping Cough ...	29	—	—
Totals ...	84	15	1

NOTE—Figures for non-civilians are not included.

## AGE AT DATE OF NOTIFICATION.

Age.	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Whooping Cough	Measles	Cerebro Spinal Fever	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Acute Poliomyelitis	Encephalitis Lethargica
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—
1 and under 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	7	—	—	—	—
2        „        3	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	—	—	—
3        „        4	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	—	—	—	—
4        „        5	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	9	—	—	—	—
5        „        10	2	—	—	—	—	—	13	10	—	—	1	—
10       „       15	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	1	—
15       „       20	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	—
20       „       35	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
35       „       45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
45       „       65	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	5	1	—	—	3	1	29	38	—	—	7	—

## TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIODS.	Totals.	New Cases.				Totals.	Deaths.			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F
0 and under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1    "    "    5	2	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	1
5    "    "   10	5	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
10   "   "   15	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15   "   "   20	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20   "   "   25	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25   "   "   35	5	4	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
35   "   "   45	5	3	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
45   "   "   55	3	1	—	1	1	2	2	—	—	—
55   "   "   65	1	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Total    ...*	26	12	10	2	2	‡7	5	—	1	1

\*Included in this total are two transfers from the mainland and two old cases left Island and returned.

‡Includes two cases died from non-pulmonary tuberculosis notified as pulmonary, and one case who died from another disease.